

**Continuum of Care Reform
Program Workgroup Meeting Notes
September 6, 2012**

Key Discussion Items:

- Need to refine Program Scope of Work
- Need to identify an assessment tool and process
- Importance of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
- Need to identify additional representatives (i.e., Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Alcohol & Drug Programs (ADP), Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Parent Partners, etc.).
- Youth Voice:

By: John S.

I hope that children in foster care have more say so opinions in what they voice as what their looking for in their ideal living place before being placed in a home so that we can look for their ideal home based of their own voiced needs and ideal wants

My perception of improved foster care is that the foster parent or parents give the same quality of care to their foster child or children as they give their real children and that the therapeutic counselors, other team residential staff give clients more opportunities to show their true potential, their unique ability to cope with life in their own efficient/appropriate way to increase the success rate of those in foster care.

I grew up in foster care. In life I went through many hardships and failure. These events made me stronger and determined to prove that I exist for more than just a reason that I can be a better person. My hope is that other foster children don't have to go through what I did to be determined strong and smart. My hope is that they have support, support that meets their needs more than wants but wants can be essential also and that they have the attention they need to feel at home. Foster homes should feel like true family. Group homes should emphasize different opportunities or efforts to make going home for kids less stressful. Constantly moving homes puts stress on foster children, it did for me. My hope is that their first places feels like the right place, a place like home with a loving family so that they don't have the stress of constantly moving through homes.

Education is essential but we need more tutors in public and non-public schools for people like me who struggle or struggled in school subjects.

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And going back to group home reform is the essentiality of background checks on group home employees in case of history.

Action Items:

1. Schedule next workgroup meeting: September 21st from noon-3:00pm
2. Refine Scope of Work
3. Develop project plan and schedule
4. Identifying additional representatives